



# Tennessee Agricultural Enhancement Program

## Genetic and Cattle Handling Facilities

### Cost Share Program



**For Fiscal Year 2007 - 2008**

#### Improving Herds, Improving Profits Through the Genetic and Cattle Handling Facilities Cost Share Program

Improving Herds, Improving Profits Through the Genetic and Cattle Handling Facilities Cost Share Program

The Tennessee Cattle Improvement Initiative is a program aimed at increasing farm income in Tennessee by providing cost-share funds to farmers for the improvement of beef and dairy cattle genetics and livestock handling facilities. Funding for the program was provided within Governor Bredesen's budget and approved by the General Assembly.

In order to be eligible for cost-share funds under both the Cattle Genetic Improvement Program and the Cattle Handling Facilities Program, producers must register their livestock farms, or premises, for the National Animal Identification System. Farmers can register their livestock premises at Farm Service Agency, UT Extension, Farm Bureau or Tennessee Farmers Co-op locations. Premises registration forms and instructions are also available from the Tennessee Department of Agriculture (TDA) online at [www.tennessee.gov/agriculture/tpis](http://www.tennessee.gov/agriculture/tpis) or by calling (615) 837-5120. Producers must be a resident of Tennessee and must own a minimum of 10 cows. One grant per household, premise identification, and BQA number.

Producers must also be certified under the Beef Quality Assurance Program, a two-hour educational course on cattle management and care sponsored by the Tennessee Cattlemen's Association. More information on BQA classes is available by contacting TCA at (615) 896-2333 or [info@tncattle.org](mailto:info@tncattle.org), or by visiting their Web site at [www.tncattle.org](http://www.tncattle.org).

The TDA is also offering scholarships to producers who participate in the UT Extension's Master Beef Producer Program. The TDA will pay \$100 dollars of the 12-session educational program. For more information on the Master Beef Producer Program, contact your local UT Extension office.

Applications and additional details about program requirements can be found online at [www.picktnproducts.org](http://www.picktnproducts.org) or by calling TDA's Cattle Improvement Initiative Coordinator at (615) 837-5309. Send e-mail inquiries to [Cattle.Improvement@state.tn.us](mailto:Cattle.Improvement@state.tn.us).

*Tennessee Department of Agriculture reserves the right to modify approval and payment processes in order to insure fair and timely management of programs.*

#### Application Period:

Start accepting applications: .....August 1, 2007  
 Deadline for receipt of applications: .....December 1, 2007  
 Reimbursement deadline for Equipment:.....December 31, 2007  
 Reimbursement deadline for Genetics: .....May 1, 2008

#### PRODUCER GUIDELINES:

##### Genetic and Cattle Handling Facilities

#### I. General Information:

The program consists of two major components: a cattle genetic improvement program and a cattle handling facilities program. Both programs utilize cost share incentives to encourage producers to improve herds and facilities.

#### II. How to Apply For Cost Share:

Complete and mail the application to the Tennessee Department of Agriculture where it will be evaluated by staff and the applicant will be notified of approval or disapproval for cost share assistance. Only projects that are **approved in advance** by TDA will be eligible for cost share assistance.

An Authorization to Grantee and Project Record Form will be sent to the producer. When the project has been completed, complete and sign the form with required attachments and return it to TDA.

Following TDA review of the materials submitted and if no additional information or documentation is needed, the Department will request payment to the producer.

#### III. Cattle Genetic Improvement Program:

**A. Cost shares and maximum reimbursements for genetic improvement program.**

1. Eligible Genetic Activities
  - a. Conducting a herd evaluation (maximum \$175.00)
  - b. Purchase or lease of a bull

Cattle Genetics	Cost Share Percentage	
	Standard 35% of cost up to max	Master Beef Producer 50% of cost up to max
Herd Evaluation (optional)	\$ 175.00 max	\$ 175.00 max
Lease/Purchase of Bull or Artificial Insemination	\$ 850.00 max	\$1,000.00 max

Cattle Handling Facilities	Cost Share Percentage	
	Standard 35% of cost up to max	Master Beef Producer 50% of cost up to max
Facilities or Equipment	\$3,500.00 max	\$3,500.00 max

[www.picktnproducts.org](http://www.picktnproducts.org)

- c. Purchase of semen and/or payment for technician fees for artificial insemination
2. A producer is eligible for up to \$1,025.00 per program year for genetic work. This includes a herd evaluation (up to \$175.00) and any one or a combination of bull purchase, lease or artificial insemination (up to \$850.00 based on 35% cost share).
3. A Master Beef Producer is eligible for up to \$1,175.00 per program year for genetic work. This includes a herd evaluation (up to \$175.00) and any one or a combination of bull purchase, lease or artificial insemination (up to \$1,000.00 based on 50% cost share). A producer must have completed the University of Tennessee's Master Beef course to be eligible for the 50% cost share.

**Note: A producer may also be eligible for either \$ 3,500 in cattle handling facilities per program year. See Section IV.**

#### **B. Requirements for Participation in Genetic Cost Share Program:**

1. The producer must register their premises with the Tennessee Department of Agriculture.
2. The producer must be currently certified as completing the Beef Quality Assurance Program.
3. Approved cost share funds will be provided to producers on a reimbursement basis. Herd evaluation costs up to maximum will be paid directly to the evaluator.
4. Payment shall only be made for approved cost-share items and is subject to percentages and maximums established by the Tennessee Department of Agriculture. **Projects must be approved in advance.**
5. Producers who intend to take part in the program must supply either a Social Security (SSN) or Federal Employer Identification Number (EIN) number and Premise ID and Premise Account Numbers to receive payment.
6. Ownership Requirements for purchased or leased bulls:
  - a. Ownership of purchased bulls must be maintained for a minimum of two successive breeding seasons not in the same year.
  - b. Leased bulls can be leased for a minimum of 60 days up to one year.
  - c. Emergency early release of ownership is possible in case of physical or disposition problems, natural disasters or situations beyond the producer's control. Early release must be approved by the Tennessee Department of Agriculture following investigation of the circumstances necessitating the request.
7. Expected Progeny Differences (EPD) or Lifetime Net Merit Requirements:
  - a. To qualify, a bull must be in the top 50% of his breed for at least two of the following EPD traits: Birth weight/Calving Ease; Weaning Weight; Yearling Weight; or Maternal Milk.
  - b. When selecting dairy breed bulls, sires must be in the top 80th percentile for Lifetime Net Merit. For Holstein bulls, producers have the option of using the Type and Production Index (TPI) as their qualifying criteria instead of Lifetime Net Merit. Holstein bulls must be out of a sire that meets the AI requirements to qualify. For Holstein semen, the semen must have a TPI rating of 1400 or greater to qualify. Jersey bulls must be in the top 80th percentile for Lifetime Net Merit. For Jersey semen, producers must use the Production Type Index (PTI) or Jersey Production Index (JPI) as their qualifying criteria. Jersey semen must be from the top 100 bulls in the PTI or

JPI. All other dairy breed bulls must be in the top 80th percentile for Lifetime Net Merit.

8. All bulls purchased or leased through this program must pass a Breeding Soundness Evaluation prior to receiving cost-share funds. A Breeding Soundness Evaluation Certificate from a licensed veterinarian must be included with the producer's request for reimbursement.
9. The producer will identify each bull purchased and/or leased with an electronic identification tag and provide the number to the Tennessee Department of Agriculture.
10. Artificial Insemination Technicians utilized by producers receiving grant funds for reimbursement must be affiliated with Artificial Breeding Companies. Producers that have been certified to do artificial insemination through an accredited program (for example ABS or Select Sires, etc) can do their own AI work. However, producer time and labor will not be compensated; cost of semen, synchronism supplies and other artificial insemination supplies are eligible for cost share reimbursement. The cost of accredited artificial insemination technicians (or veterinarian's fees for AI services) is eligible.
11. Embryo transfer costs are not eligible.
12. A producer can choose to have his/her herd evaluated on farm by an evaluator approved by the Tennessee Department of Agriculture. This evaluation will assist the producer in determining what type of bull can best improve their herd to maximize the performance of the cows and to produce a more marketable calf crop. The producer must follow the recommendations of the evaluator for the bull/semen selected to qualify for additional cost share assistance.
13. Producers may not combine projects with other producers. Producers will not receive more than one approval per program year.

#### **IV. Cattle Handling Facilities Program:**

(UT Extension will supply advice and recommendations for facility and equipment needs.)

##### **A. Cost shares and maximum reimbursements for cattle handling facilities program:**

1. A standard producer is eligible for 35% cost share up to the maximum of \$3,500.00 per year for handling facilities.
2. A Master Beef Producer is eligible for 50% cost share up to the maximum of \$3,500.00 per year for handling facilities. A producer must have completed the University of Tennessee's Master Beef course to be eligible for the 50% cost share.

**Note: A producer may also be eligible for either \$ 850 or \$1000 in cattle genetics per program year. See Section III.**

##### **B. Requirements for participation in cattle handling facilities cost share program for beef and dairy producers:**

1. The cattle handling facility is located on premises that are registered with the Tennessee Department of Agriculture.
2. The beef or dairy producer is currently certified as completing the Beef Quality Assurance Program.
3. Producer time and labor are not eligible for cost share reimbursement; the cost of materials and hired or contracted labor for approved project is eligible for cost share reimbursement.
4. Producers may not combine projects with other producers. Producers will not receive more than one approval per program year.

#### **Equipment and Facilities Eligible Cost Share**

##### **Beef and Dairy Items**

1. Commercial Head Gate
2. Squeeze Chute
3. Palpation Cage
4. Holding Chute
5. Curved or Offset Working Chute
6. Loading Chute

7. Crowding Tub and Gate
8. Weaning/Holding Pen\*
9. Hoof Trimming Table or Chute
10. Single Animal Scale
11. Semen Tank
12. Hay Ring/Cone Ring
13. Creep/Self Feeder

##### **Dairy Only Items**

1. Headlock Stanchions
2. Catch Lanes
3. Hot Water Heater
4. Milk Tank
5. Water Sterilization Equipment

6. Plate Exchanger for Cooling
7. Milk Vacuum Pump
8. Milker Pulsation Equipment
9. Vacuum System Regulators
10. Vacuum Gauges
11. Milk Pipelines

\* Pens must be built from lumber, gates or panels.

\* Woven wire, barb wire, high tensile or electric fences are not eligible for cost share.

#### **Contact:**

Questions concerning this program may be directed to the Cattle Improvement Initiative Coordinator at the Tennessee Department of Agriculture, P.O. Box 40627, Ellington Agricultural Center, Nashville Tennessee 37204, phone 615-837-5309. Email: Cattle.Improvement@state.tn.us

For more detailed guidelines, go to [www.picktnproducts.org](http://www.picktnproducts.org)

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Tennessee Department of Agriculture, Authorization No. 325357, 15,000 copies, June 2007. This public document was promulgated at a cost of \$0.09 per copy.



[illegible]

**4. Complete the table below by marking the Cattle Handling Equipment for which you are applying for cost share assistance.** You may check multiple blocks. *See # #3 for genetic cost share opportunities.*

- Standard Producer = 35% cost share up to maximum of \$3,500
- Master Beef Producer = 50% cost share up to maximum of \$3,500

- Mark the equipment applied for:**

<input type="checkbox"/>	Commercial Head Gate		
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<input type="checkbox"/>	Squeeze Chute	<input type="checkbox"/>	Headlock Stanchions
<input type="checkbox"/>	Palpation Cage	<input type="checkbox"/>	Catch Lanes
<input type="checkbox"/>	Holding Chute	<input type="checkbox"/>	Hot Water Heater
<input type="checkbox"/>	Curved or Offset Working Chute	<input type="checkbox"/>	Milk Tank
<input type="checkbox"/>	Loading Chute	<input type="checkbox"/>	Water Sterilization Equipment
<input type="checkbox"/>	Crowding Tub and Gate	<input type="checkbox"/>	Plate Exchanger for Cooling Equipment
<input type="checkbox"/>	Weaning/Holding Pen	<input type="checkbox"/>	Milk Vacuum Pump
<input type="checkbox"/>	Hoof Trimming Table or Chute	<input type="checkbox"/>	Milker Pulsation Equipment
<input type="checkbox"/>	Single Animal Scale	<input type="checkbox"/>	Vacuum System Regulators
<input type="checkbox"/>	Semen Tank	<input type="checkbox"/>	Vacuum Gauges
<input type="checkbox"/>	Hay Ring/Cone Ring	<input type="checkbox"/>	Milk Pipelines
<input type="checkbox"/>	Creep/Self Feeder		
<input type="checkbox"/>	Hay Feeding Wagon (slant bar)		

**Purchases made prior to approval are not eligible for cost share reimbursement.**

**Incomplete applications will be denied.**

	I certify that all the information on this application is complete, true, and factual to the best of my knowledge and belief. I understand that providing any false, fraudulent, or misleading information may result in penalties and/or make this farm/tract ineligible to participate in present and/or future Tennessee Department of Agriculture programs.	
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	<p align="center"><b><i>SIGN HERE</i></b></p> <p><b><i>X</i></b> _____</p> <p align="center"><b><i>Producer Signature</i></b></p>	<p><b><i>Date</i></b></p>	
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**X** \_\_\_\_\_ **Date**

**Producer Signature**

	<b>Mail to:</b> TN Dept. of Agriculture Attn: TAEP Cattle Improvement P.O. Box 40627 Nashville, TN 37204	Applications must be received or postmarked on or between:  <b>August 1, 2007 and          December 1, 2007</b>	
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	<b>Mail to:</b> TN Dept. of Agriculture Attn: TAEP Cattle Improvement P.O. Box 40627 Nashville, TN 37204	Applications must be received or postmarked on or between:  <b>August 1, 2007 and          December 1, 2007</b>	
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	<b>Contact:</b> TAEP Cattle Improvement (615) 837-5309 <u><a href="mailto:Cattle.Improvement@state.tn.us">Cattle.Improvement@state.tn.us</a></u>	<b>Approval Notification:</b>  Allow 2 weeks for your application to be processed. You will be notified of your approval via the mail.	
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**OFFICE USE ONLY**

Date of Approval:		Amount Approved:	
Notes:			